

an electric heating element located within the housing;

wherein the heater has a heat output of at least 750 Watts in a natural convection mode while maintaining the exterior surface of the housing below a threshold temperature of about 170 degrees Celsius, a ratio of the heat output to the total volume of the housing being at least about 0.082 Watts/ccm.

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43. (Amended) The heater of claim 42 wherein the ratio of the heat output to the total volume of the housing is at least about 0.09 Watts/ccm.

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45. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 wherein the ratio of the heat output to the total volume of the housing is approximately 0.1 Watts/ccm.

46. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 further comprising at least two substantially vertical baffles.

47. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 wherein at least a portion of the air inlet is located on a bottom portion of the housing and at least a portion of the air outlet is located on a top portion of the housing.

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50. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 further comprising first and second substantially vertical baffles positioned within the housing, the first baffle extending along at least a portion of a front of the housing and the second baffle extending along at least a portion of a rear of the housing, the heating element being positioned between the first and second baffles such that the first baffle is positioned between at least a portion of the heating element and the front of the housing and the second baffle is positioned between at least a portion of the heating element and the rear of the housing.

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#### REMARKS

Claims 1 – 57 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 14, 15, 21, 28, 35, 39, 43, 45, 46, 47, and 50 are amended. Applicants respectfully submit the above proposed changes to the claims. No new matter has been added.

In claim 1, Applicants have added the limitation that the outlet be at least as large as the inlet. This amendment is supported in the specification as originally filed. For example, on page 6, lines 14 and 15, an exemplary air inlet has an area of about 143 sqcm and the air outlet has an area of about 860 sqcm. Therefore, the air outlet is at least as large as the air inlet in this illustrative embodiment.

Claims 14 and 35 have been amended to correct the spelling of "grille." The spelling in the claims now conforms to the references to the grille in the specification, such as on page 4, line 15, and page 5, line 7.

Claim 15 has been amended to include an air outlet at least partially located on the top portion of the housing. This amendment is supported in the specification as originally filed. For example, on page 5, lines 6 and 7, the specification reads "the air outlet 18 is formed by openings in the top grille 12."

The preposition "of" has been added to claim 21 in order to clarify the claim.

In claims 28 and 47, the adjective "exterior" has been removed to clarify the claims.

In claims 39, 43, and 45, the units "Watts/ccm" have been added in order to clarify what units the ratio is designated in. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification. For example, on page 5, lines 12-13, the specification states that the heater "may have a heat output per unit volume of up to at least 0.082 Watts/cubic centimeter (ccm), and more preferably up to at least about 0.1 Watts/ccm."

In claims 46 and 50, the references to the "plurality of baffles" have been removed because the phrase lacks antecedent basis.

#### I. Information Disclosure Statement

A supplementary Information Disclosure Statement is attached submitting an additional U.S. patent. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this IDS pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and MPEP 609.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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**MARKED-UP CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A portable heater comprising:
  - a housing having an air inlet, an air outlet, an exterior surface and a front, wherein an area of the air outlet is at least as large as an area of the air inlet;
  - a plurality of baffles located within the housing; and
  - a heating element located within the housing, the heating element capable of heating air flowing from the air inlet to the air outlet in a natural convection mode;

wherein the baffles are constructed and arranged to help maintain at least a portion of the exterior surface of the housing at or below a threshold temperature during heating in at least a natural convection mode and at least one of the baffles is positioned between the front of the housing and the heating element.
14. (Amended) The heater of claim 1 wherein at least one of the air inlet and the air outlet are formed in or included in a grille capable of being formed in a punch press process.
15. (Amended) A portable heater comprising:
  - a housing having an air outlet and exterior surface, wherein at least a portion of the air outlet is located on a top portion of the housing;
  - a heating element positioned inside the housing and constructed and arranged to heat air;

and

  - at least two substantially vertical baffles positioned inside the housing and defining an interior zone enclosing at least a portion of the heating element and defining a secondary zone defined by an area outside of the interior zone and inside the housing;

wherein the at least two baffles, the housing and the heating element are arranged to operate in a natural convection heating mode while maintaining the exterior surface of the housing below a threshold temperature.
21. (Amended) The heater of claim 15 wherein the heating element has a heat output of at least 750 Watts.

28. (Amended) The heater of claim 27 wherein at least a portion of the air inlet is located on a bottom portion of the [exterior] housing and at least a portion of the air outlet is located on a top portion of the [exterior] housing.

35. (Amended) The heater of claim 27 wherein at least one of the air inlet and the air outlet are formed in or included in a grille capable of being formed in a punch press process.

39. (Amended) A portable heater comprising:  
a housing having an exterior surface, an air inlet, an air outlet and a total volume in cubic centimeters; and  
an electric heating element located within the housing;  
wherein the heater has a heat output of at least 750 Watts in a natural convection mode while maintaining the exterior surface of the housing below a threshold temperature of about 170 degrees Celsius, a ratio of the heat output to the total volume of the housing being at least about 0.082 Watts/ccm.

43. (Amended) The heater of claim 42 wherein the ratio of the heat output to the total volume of the housing is at least about 0.09 Watts/ccm.

45. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 wherein the ratio of the heat output to the total volume of the housing is approximately 0.1 Watts/ccm.

46. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 [wherein the plurality of baffles comprises] further comprising at least two substantially vertical baffles.

47. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 wherein at least a portion of the air inlet is located on a bottom portion of the [exterior] housing and at least a portion of the air outlet is located on a top portion of the [exterior] housing.

50. (Amended) The heater of claim 39 [wherein the plurality of baffles comprises] further comprising first and second substantially vertical baffles positioned within the housing,

the first baffle extending along at least a portion of a front of the housing and the second baffle extending along at least a portion of a rear of the housing, the heating element being positioned between the first and second baffles such that the first baffle is positioned between at least a portion of the heating element and the front of the housing and the second baffle is positioned between at least a portion of the heating element and the rear of the housing.